

Sebago Lake State Park

Soils and Natural Resources

Workshop II

By Dave Rocque

Looks like I have been talked into organizing one more Soils and Natural Resource Workshop. It will primarily be a repeat of the workshop held at Sebago Lake State Park last September but with an expanded wetlands component. I realize that I have been saying “this is the last one” for several years now but retirement is looming ever closer, I turn 65 next year. It’s time for the younger folk to step forward and probably time for a different type of workshop. I am though, very willing to assist with the organization of future workshops.

The MAWS Executive Committee thought an expanded wetland component would be a good addition to the workshop and I agreed. With MAWS folks in the lead for this component, at least three of the sites will be further developed by one or more of the following: detailed vegetation data plots, wetland delineations (by several persons to show the variability of boundaries by different individuals), identifying secondary hydrology indicators and vernal pool assessments. MAWS representatives will be present at each of these stations to show what was done and how it was done and to answer questions.

The date for this year’s workshop is Wednesday, September 7, 2016. It will be once again sponsored by the Maine Association of Professional Soil Scientists, Maine Association of Wetland Scientists and Maine Association of Site Evaluators.

For those who attended the workshop last year, you will remember that it was a very dry spring and summer, quite the opposite from what was experienced at Mt. Blue State Park the previous two years. As a result, all of the soil pits were dry and so were streams and wetlands used for the workshop. I wasn’t even able to collect much useful groundwater table data prior to the workshop it was so dry and Sebago Lake never completely filled up. Odds are this will be a wetter year giving workshop sites a much different look. That I believe is one of the benefits of repeating a workshop. Conditions are likely to change and, we all, including regulators, have

had a year to think about our original determinations. Most of the sites I select are difficult with “gray areas” allowing for considerable subjectivity which makes for some very interesting and lively discussion with the regulators. Repeat attenders will also have the expanded wetland sites to benefit from. For folks who missed out last year, I think you will find the sites very interesting and the setting is hard to beat on an early September day. Throw in comradery with folks we don’t get to see often enough and it makes for a most enjoyable and useful day in the field. Another benefit is being able to mingle with folks we don’t know, particularly from different professions. I have been told that mixed groups often tour the sites together, sharing professional knowledge and making useful connections. Rumor has it that a couple of folks met for the first time at one of my workshops a number of years ago and ended up getting married! Finally, for those of you who need continuing education credits, it’s hard to beat this opportunity. Good price, great setting with interesting sites and discussions. I look forward to seeing you there on September 7.

2016 SOILS AND NATURAL RESOURCE WORKSHOP
Wednesday, September 7, 2016 Sebago Lake State Park

The 2015 MAPSS/MAWS/MASE/SSSNNE Soils and Natural Resource Workshop will be held at Sebago lake State Park in the town of Casco, Maine; on September 7, 2016 from 9:00 am until 3:30 pm. Check-in will be in the Park Headquarters on Park Access Road from 8:30 am to 9:00 am. You will be given a location map to sites you are to visit. **Carpooling is recommended** because of limited parking at some of the sites located beside the various access roads. Assistants will be at each of the sites to point out the soil pits and other areas where you are to make observations (and determinations). You have from 9:00 am – 12:30 pm to visit the sites. After visiting the field sites, travel to Songo Beach for a 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm discussion of the sites and soils by state, local and federal regulators and experts. **Lunch is on your own.** There are a number of excellent places to enjoy your lunch including Songo Beach, the park boat launch and Songo Locks where you can watch boats being raised or lowered to go up or down river. The workshop has 7 sites which include sandy spodosol soils, flood plain soils, lacustrine sediments in pit and mound topography with an albic horizon, boulder fields in wet and upland areas, streams within the shoreland zone controlled by lake levels in Sebago Lake and vernal pools. Sebago Lake water levels are carefully controlled with a drawdown of over 5 feet making it difficult to determine where to begin measuring for shoreland zone setbacks. These are challenging sites that will generate a good deal of discussion. Experts as well as State, local, Portland Water District and Federal Regulators will be present to answer questions and provide valuable guidance for dealing with these difficult sites and soils. See attached workshop description for more details.

The cost of the workshop is \$35.00 for MAPSS/MAWS/MASE/SSSNNE members or associate members and **\$40.00 for all others.**

Please send your checks, payable to MAPSS, to:
Gary Fullerton
104 Millturn Road
Limington, Maine 04049-3141

Though registrations will be accepted the day of the workshop, for planning purposes, we ask that you register by August 26. Check www.mapss.org for background information and updates.

If you have any questions about the workshop, call Dave Rocque at 287-2666 or send him an e-mail at david.rocque@maine.gov.

Registration for MAPSS/MAWS/MASE/SSSNNE 2016 Soils and Natural Resource Workshop
Park Headquarters, Park Access Road Road
Sebago Lake State Park, Casco, Maine

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ **E-mail:** _____

Number Attending Workshop: _____ **X \$35.00** _____

_____ **X \$40.00** _____

SEBAGO LAKE STATE PARK - MAPSS WORKSHOP 2015

REGISTRATION AND WRAP-UP LOCATIONS

