

Society of Wetland Scientists *Meeting*

B O S T O N 1 9 9 5

March 28, 1995



COLEN R. PETERS  
ME ASSOC. OF WETLAND SCIENTISTS  
C/O TIMSON PETERS  
P.O. Box 150  
HALLOWELL, ME 04347

Dear \_\_\_\_\_:

I am pleased to inform you that your poster has been accepted for the 16th Annual Meeting of the Society of Wetland Scientists, May 28, 1995 - June 2, 1995. The set-up for posters is scheduled for 12:00 pm on, Sunday, May 28, 1995.

The Poster Session/Social Mixer is scheduled for 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm on Thursday, June 1, 1995.

All presenters must register for the conference. If you have not sent in your own registration, please do so as soon as possible. A copy of the registration form is included for your convenience.

We are looking forward to your participation.

Sincerely,

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Enclosure

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PETERS, COLEN R., David Cowan and Betsy Day. Maine Association of Wetland Scientists- *Toward an Understanding of Maine's Wetlands.*

Maine, New England's largest state, contains 15 biophysical regions (McMahon, 1990) and inventories indicate wetlands cover 25-35 % of the state (5,160,000-6,460,000 acres) or as much as twice the combined area of wetlands in all the other New England states (Widoff, 1988). Wetland communities range from the tidal Gulf of Maine to alpine wetlands found on Mt. Katahdin (5,268 ft MSL) and other summits of the northern Appalachians. Coniferous forested wetlands (PFO2/4) are the most abundant wetland type in the State.

The Saco Heath is just one example of Maine's special wetlands- the southernmost raised coalesced bog known to occur in the State and possibly North America! This peatland also contains the State's largest stand of Atlantic white cedar (*Chamaecyparis thyoides*), which nearing the northern extent of its range, also provides the sole food source for a globally threatened population of Hessel's hairstreak butterfly (*Mitoura hesseli*). In 1984 the Heath was listed on the state Register of Critical Areas and since that time, through land donations and acquisitions, The Nature Conservancy, with assistance from the City of Saco and local organizations, has managed the wetland as a Preserve accessible to the public by boardwalks and trails.

The Maine Association of Wetland Scientists (MAWS) which formed in 1990 is just one of the organizations actively involved in trying to develop a better understanding of Maine's wetland resources. Membership reflects a multidisciplinary expertise and includes individuals from local, state and federal government; students and faculty from colleges and universities; and a diverse representation from the private sector such as attorneys, environmental planners, soil scientists and of course, wetland scientists. Information transfer throughout this diverse membership is a key role of the Association. MAWS has also played an active role in commenting on legislation relating to wetlands, conducted a survey of the professional community regarding certification of wetland scientists, served as a technical-advisor to a Legislative Task Force convened to oversee development of a State Wetlands Conservation Plan and hosted workshops and fieldtrips on soils, cranberry farming and various examples of wetland mitigation.

Compensatory mitigation projects in Maine focus on restoration of forest and shrub swamps, and wet meadows, the most commonly impacted wetland types. Projects often include a mix of mitigation types (ie. creation, enhancement and preservation) because available restoration sites are limited in number and size. In addition to hydrology, topsoil and microtopography are some of the design components currently receiving the most attention. Monitoring to assess attainment of functional objectives is standard for all recent mitigation projects.

The landscape, community types, flora and fauna as well as activities in and near wetlands are basic elements leading to an understanding of Maine's wetlands by members of the Maine Association of Wetland Scientists.

Dave (NDT) 275-1031

Betsy (Normandeau) 616-6527.

Hopefully by putting your names on the above I have not added to (or started for that matter) a "life list" of embarrassments. Your input & discussion was greatly appreciated & hopefully at the minimum this will get MAWS on the boards

Cole

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