REMINDER

MT. BLUE SOILS AND NATURAL RESOURCE WORKSHOP

By Dave Rocque

Don't forget mark your calendar so that you reserve September 4, 2013 for the annual MAPSS, MAWS, MASE and SSSNNE field workshop. This year, it will be held at scenic Mt. Blue State Park in Weld, Maine. The focus of this year's workshop is similar to past years; soil evaluation and natural resource identification. As usual, I have selected sites and soils that are challenging but are representative of what we all find in the field on a regular basis, including:

1. A wetland, stream, braided stream complex that will have a number of locations flagged for your interpretation. Is it a stream or a wetland or both? Are parts a stream with other parts a wetland? Is it a stream within a wetland? This site should generate a lot of lively discussion with state and federal regulators.
2. A wooded glacial till site on a 20% slope with several groundwater seeps. Based upon the hydrology of the area, it is obviously wet but is it a wetland, on a 20% slope? Does it have hydric soils or is there a lack of hydric soils morphology due to oxygenated groundwater? How do these soils key out using the Site Evaluator Drainage Key?
3. A pit and mound topography glacial till site dominated by hemlocks with spodosol soils in a fairly level area. Are any of the pits hydric? Is there a wetland boundary and if so, where? How do these soils key out using the Site Evaluator Drainage Key?
4. A moderately sloping pit and mound topography lodgment glacial till site with soils that are not spodosols. Does moving groundwater on top of the hardpan influence the formation of redoximorphic features? Are any of the soils hydric? Is there a wetland boundary and if so, where? How do these soils key out using the Site Evaluator Drainage Key?
5. A site with sandy spodosol soils in a possible flood plain, beside a stream/wetland/vernal pool complex that is also within the shoreland zone of Web Lake. This site is sure to generate many questions and much discussion with the regulators from ACOE, DEP, DEH and LUPC. Are any of the soils hydric? How do these soils key out using the Site Evaluator Drainage Key? Several spots within this complex will be flagged for interpretation.

I and staff from the park have been monitoring the groundwater table in soil pits excavated last year so there will be some data for the workshop. A team of expert soil scientists and botanists will evaluate the soils and sites prior to the workshop and the sites will be visited by regulators from DEP (both NRPA and SLZ), ACOE, LUPC and the State Septic System Program. These regulators will be present during the workshop wrap-up to answer questions you are sure to have.

This should be a fun and informative workshop with broad appeal to soil scientists, wetland scientists, site evaluators, code enforcement officers, planners, municipal officials, regulators, foresters, lake association members and many others. You can participate at whatever level is appropriate for your background and knowledge (experts will be stationed at each site to provide whatever assistance you may need).

For more specifics, you can refer to the article I wrote for the various association newsletters earlier this year or give me a call at 287-2666 or send me an e-mail at David.Rocque@Maine.Gov. Remember to bring your lunch as there are limited opportunities to buy a lunch in the town of Weld.

See you September 4.