
WETLANDS CERTIFICATION TRAINING FOR NOVA SCOTIA

FROM: MARITIME COLLEGE OF FOREST TECHNOLOGY
SUBJECT: **ADVANCED WETLAND DELINEATION & EVALUATION FOR NS**
DATE: June 2, 2010

The Maritime College of Forest Technology's, Department of Continuing Education is pleased to offer **Wetlands Certification Training for NS**. This suite of courses was developed in conjunction with Nova Scotia Environment and provides all required elements for individuals to be included on the list of qualified delineators made available to the public. *Please keep in mind that regulated criteria is still up for review, and are yet to be finalized.*

The courses start out with the foundational elements of hydric soils and wetland plant identification, building to a Basic Identification and Delineation course. In addition, an Advanced Wetland Delineation course will allow participants to assess problem areas, function, and mitigation options.

MCFT offered the first delineation course in the Maritimes in August, 2008. Participants' evaluations told us this was an excellent course but contained far too much information for such a short period of time. In order to facilitate learning in a structured manner, we've developed four modules that can be taken individually, or as an entire suite of courses. Individuals who are competent in any of the individual elements can challenge for credit in the given course; thereby allowing them to apply for the next module in the ladder structure.

People who've taken wetland training from other institutions may be accredited on an individual basis.

Instructors for these modules are leading experts in their fields and are also excellent instructors and communicators.

Please see the following announcement for course details. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Julie Singleton at 506-461-7637 or via email at jsingleton@mcft.ca



N. Tim Cameron, Director
Department of Continuing Education

**ADVANCED WETLAND DELINEATION
AND EVALUATION COURSE *LEVEL 2
FOR NOVA SCOTIA - 2010**

- DATES:** Course dates are August 26, 27 & 28, 2010
- Please note this course includes a weekend. This was necessary in order to accommodate the instructors' busy schedules.
- LOCATION:** Holiday Inn, 437 Prince Street, Truro, NS. Contact number is 902-895-1651.
- OBJECTIVES:** This course is designed to teach students more advanced procedures for evaluating disturbed sites, complicated field situations, and more difficult-to-identify wetlands and to provide them with a basic understanding of wetland functions and rapid assessment techniques for evaluating wetland functions.
- This course is required for individuals who wish to be included on Nova Scotia Environment's list of persons who can prepare the reports for applications for **ALTERATION** which will be made available to the public. *Please keep in mind that regulated criteria is still up for review, and are yet to be finalized.*
- CANDIDATES:** **Advanced Wetlands Delineation and Evaluation *Level 2** is designed for people whose work involves the assessment, conservation, mitigation or alteration of wetlands. Ideally candidates will have a strong interest in wetland hydrology, soils and plants.
- This course is required for individuals who wish to be included on Nova Scotia Environment's list of persons who can prepare the reports for applications for **ALTERATION** which will be made available to the public.
- Please note:** *prerequisite* training is **Basic Wetland Identification and Delineation *Level 1** or proof of passing an approved course from another institution; or you must have *successfully challenged the exam for this course.*
- EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS:** Educational requirements include advanced study in at least *one of the three areas of wetland science – soils, vegetation or hydrology.*

FORMAT:

The course consists of classroom instruction and hands-on experience identifying and evaluating wetlands in the field. Lectures will be given on a variety of subjects including advanced vegetation sampling techniques, methods to monitor wetland hydrology at disturbed or questionable sites, problem soils and how to recognize hydric from nonhydric soils in these cases, other problem situations, wetland functions, and wetland functional assessment. Students will delineate wetlands in the field and apply rapid assessment techniques for predicting wetland functions to gain experience in their application. Students will work in groups during field exercises and work will be reviewed by the instructors. The course will end with a certification exam. Exams will be graded onsite and returned to students for use during the review. All questions will be reviewed so that students know how and why they received the score they did and if they missed some points, the instructors will clarify those point during the review. After the review, exams will be turned in.

Course OutlineDay One

Introduction and Course Objectives

The Role of Soil Chemistry in Forming Hydric Soil Properties

Advanced Vegetation Sampling Techniques

Disturbed Areas – Monitoring Wetland Hydrology

Overview of Wetland Functions

Field Exercises (afternoon)

Evening Readings from “In Search of Swampland”:

Wetlands as Wildlife Habitat (Chapter 6, pp. 80-91)

Other Wetland Functions and Values (Chapter 7, pp. 92-104)

Typing and Evaluating Wetlands (Chapter 14, pp. 275-278; 287-295)

Day Two

Group Presentations - Students

Reporting Requirements for Wetland Alterations/Mitigation

Wetland Classification for Desktop Wetland Functional Assessment

Sources of Information for Functional Assessment (e.g., GeoNova,

Endangered Species, Historic Sites, Aerial Imagery online, etc.)

Rapid Assessment Techniques for Field Evaluation of Wetland Functions

Field Exercises (afternoon)

Day Three

Group Presentations - Students

Problem Soils

Difficult-to-Identify Wetlands and Problematic Field Situations

Field Exercises (late morning/early afternoon)

Certification Exam

Review Exam

Field portions of the course will involve visits to a variety of wetlands for discussion and data collection. Please bring appropriate field gear and prepare for all weather conditions. MCFI will supply all course materials for both classroom and field sites.

INSTRUCTORS: **Ralph Tiner and Peter Veneman** are North American experts in wetland ecology and identification. Both are involved in research and education involving wetlands. Their abilities as teachers are highly developed and appreciated by those lucky enough to have attended one of their courses.

Ralph Tiner is a wetland ecologist with over thirty years experience in wetland identification, classification, and mapping. He has written extensively on these subjects including In Search of Swampland (a natural history of and field guide of wetlands of the Northeast and North Central United States), and Wetland Indicators: A Guide to Wetland Identification, Delineation, Classification, and Mapping (a textbook focusing on wetland delineation). Ralph is an adjunct professor in the Department of Plant, Soil, and Insect Sciences at the University of Massachusetts.

Peter Veneman is a recognized throughout this continent for his expertise in the field of hydric soil identification and wetland delineation. His research has focused on wetland soils and their formation and wetland mitigation. His writings include Hydric Soils of New England, co-authored with Ralph Tiner, the first well-illustrated text on the subject of hydric soils. Peter is a department head and Professor of Soil Science at the University of Massachusetts.

ENROLMENT: Enrolment for this course is limited to 24 participants. Subsequent courses will accept fewer applicants. The Maritime College of Forest Technology will limit enrolment of individual organizations or companies in order to allow participation from as many interested groups or individuals as possible.

ACCOMMODATIONS:

The Holiday Inn Hotel has reserved a block of rooms for course participants. Rates for rooms are \$109.00 + HST. Please advise them you are taking a course with the Maritime College of Forest Technology.

Course participants are expected to make their own reservations. The Holiday Inn is located at 437 Prince Street, Truro, NS B2N 1E6. The telephone number for reservations is (902) 895-1651.

TUITION: Tuition for the program including supplies is \$1890.00 + HST.

IDENTIFYING AND DELINEATING WETLANDS
is equivalent to 21 Continuing Forestry Education Credit Hours

