
WETLANDS CERTIFICATION TRAINING FOR NOVA SCOTIA

FROM: MARITIME COLLEGE OF FOREST TECHNOLOGY
SUBJECT: HYDRIC SOILS PROPERTIES & INDICATORS FOR NS AND NB
DATE: June 2, 2010

The Maritime College of Forest Technology's, Department of Continuing Education is pleased to offer **Wetlands Certification Training for NS**. These courses will teach people to identify, delineate and assess function of wetlands. 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

HYDRIC SOILS PROPERTIES AND INDICATORS FOR NOVA SCOTIA AND NEW BRUNSWICK 2010

- DATES:** Course dates are: NS session – June 14 & 15, 2010
NB session – June 17 & 18, 2010
- LOCATION:** NS course will be held at the Holiday Inn, 437 Prince Street, Truro NS.
Contact number is 902-895-1651.
- NB course will be held in Room 230, Blenis Hall, Maritime College of Forest Technology, Fredericton NB. Contact number is 506-458-0643.
- OBJECTIVES:** This program is designed to
- impart basic knowledge of hydric soil formation and morphology
 - develop basic skills in recognizing hydric soil indicators and in identifying hydric soils in the field
- CANDIDATES:** **Hydric Soils Properties and Indicators** will provide participants with the knowledge and skill to accurately recognize and identify wetland soils.
- It will be used by land surveyors, consultants, and forestry personnel (among others) who need to AVOID and/or delineate a wetland.
- This course is a *prerequisite* for the *Basic Wetland Identification and Delineation Course *Level 1*. Participants can challenge the exam for this course via an on-line exam if they feel they have the required knowledge.
- FORMAT:** Being able to identify hydric soils in the field is necessary for wetland assessment and delineation. However, in order to identify these soils, practitioners need to understand how and why hydric soils develop. This two-day course, consisting of both classroom and field sessions, will focus on understanding why hydric soils form and what indicators can be used to identify these soils in the field. Topics covered include:
- **Hydric Soils:** What are they and why do I need to know?
 - **Soils 101:** Basics you need to know and understand.
 - **Soil Colour:** Understanding and using the Munsell colour chart.
 - **Hydric Soil Indicators:** Overview of US northeast regional indicators.
 - **Soil Texture:** Texture classes and how to assess soil texture in the field.
 - **Field Assessment:** Looking at hydric soils in the field.

FORMAT cont'd

:Students are expected to actively participate in all hands-on training sessions and field sessions. There will also be a written exam at the end of the course.

Course Outline:Day 1:

- Introduction to course – wetland context; why hydric soils are important
- Soils 101 – formation factors; processes; relate to hydric soil morphology and use of indicators
- Soil Colour – Munsell Charts; hands on exercise with soil samples
- Overview of US northeast regional hydric soil indicators; relate to Soils 101 discussion; relate to conditions in NB/NS
- Soil texture – texture triangle; hands on exercise with soil samples

Day 2:

- Field assessment of hydric soils – 3 sites; emphasize understanding of formation processes and site influences; use of Munsell colour chart; identification of key morphological features
- Review – Final Q/A
- Closed Book Test
- Course wrap-up

Note: This course includes a field trip to nearby wetland sites which will cover more than half a day. Participants are therefore expected to bring appropriate footwear and clothing for field work under rain-or-shine conditions. Water-proof boots, a hat, sunscreen, insect repellent, and rain gear are highly recommended. *Participants who are able to bring their own Munsell colour chart are encouraged to do so.*

INSTRUCTOR:

Kevin Keys is a professional forester (RPF) and soil scientist (PAg) with almost 20 years experience working with forest ecosystems and soils throughout the Maritimes and across Canada. He has a BScF (resource management) from the University of British Columbia and an MScF (forest soils) from the University of New Brunswick where he was also a forest soils instructor for many years. Kevin is currently a forest ecologist, soil scientist, and wetland delineator for Jacques Whitford Stantec Limited in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. Prior to this, he was with the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources for nine years where he helped to develop the Province's new forest ecosystem classification (FEC) system. Kevin is an experienced instructor, having developed and presented several forestry and soils workshops during his career. He has also written several technical documents on forest ecosystems and soils, including *Forest Soil Types of Nova Scotia – Identification, Description, and Interpretation*.

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:

NS Course

The Holiday Inn has reserved a block of rooms for course participants. Rates for rooms are as follows:

\$109.00 for single or double occupancy + HST

Course participants are expected to make their own reservations. The Holiday Inn is located at 437 Prince Street in Amherst. The telephone number for reservations is 902 895 1651.

NB Course

Accommodations are available in Torunski Hall of the Maritime College of Forest Technology. Room rates are as follows:

Single Occupancy - \$35.00/person/night + HST

Double Occupancy - \$25.00/person/night + HST

Contact Loretta Phillips at 506-458-0643 for MCFT room rentals.

Commercial rooms and/or board are also available at nearby commercial establishments.

Meals are available at the cafeteria on a pay-as-you-go basis or meal tickets can be purchased at registration.

TUITION:

Tuition for the program including supplies is \$650.00 + HST.

**HYDRIC SOILS PROPERTIES AND INDICATORS
FOR NOVA SCOTIA AND NEW BRUNSWICK**
is equivalent to 14 Continuing Forestry Education Credits

