



WETLANDS CERTIFICATION TRAINING FOR NOVA SCOTIA

FROM: MARITIME COLLEGE OF FOREST TECHNOLOGY
SUBJECT: WETLAND PLANT IDENTIFICATION 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

WETLAND PLANT IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOP FOR NOVA SCOTIA AND NEW BRUNSWICK - 2010

DATES: Course dates are: NB session – June 23 & 24, 2010
NS session – June 23 & 24, 2010

LOCATION: Both the Nova Scotia and New Brunswick courses will be held simultaneous at the Amherst Wandlyn, which is located on the Trans Canada Highway, Amherst, NS. The contact number is: (902) 667-3331; please advise them you are taking a course with the 'Maritime College of Forest Technology' to receive a group room rate.

OBJECTIVES: This program is designed to

- impart basic knowledge on the wetland flora of the Maritimes provinces
- develop basic plant identification skills, including appropriate terminology and use of plant identification keys
- impart knowledge on the key diagnostic features of many common wetland species, enabling accurate identification in the field or quick identification using keys

CANDIDATES: **Wetland Plant Identification Workshop** will provide participants with the knowledge and skill to identify and/or key out wetland plants.

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: Good basic knowledge of wetland plant communities and the species they contain is an essential tool in the detection and delineation of these diverse ecosystems. Developing the skills necessary to recognize and correctly identify plant species will also enhance your capacity to detect rare species of conservation concern. This two-day course, consisting of both indoor sessions and field outings, will focus on the identification of common wetland species of the Maritimes provinces. In addition to an overview of common trees, shrubs, forbs and grass-like species, sessions will cover the use of plant identification keys and will present useful diagnostic features aiding in quick field identification. At the end of the course, participants will undergo a practical exam.

FORMAT cont'd:

Preliminary Workshop Schedule (subject to change in case of bad weather)

Day 1: Introduction

Wetlands and wetland vegetation overview
Basics of plant identification, terminology, using keys, shortcuts
Common wetland forbs
Fieldtrip
Identification of collected specimens
Proper care and preservation of specimens
Common wetland trees and shrubs

Day 2: Review of species covered on day 1

Common wetland grasses, sedges and rushes
Field trip and lunch in the field
Identification of collected specimens
Common wetland grasses, sedges and rushes (cont.)
Practical exam

Please note: This course has an important field component and each day includes a field trip to a nearby relatively accessible site. Participants are therefore expected to bring appropriate clothing and equipment, including proper footwear, raincoat, hat, sunscreen and insect repellent. *Participants are also required to provide their own magnifying hand lens (10X is recommended).*

INSTRUCTORS:

Sean Blaney is the Senior Botanist and Assistant Director of the Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre (AC CDC), where he is responsible for maintaining status ranks and a rare plant occurrence database for plants in each of the three Maritime provinces. Since beginning with the AC CDC in 1999, he has conducted an extensive fieldwork program across the Maritimes region, discovering dozens of new provincial records for vascular plants and documenting several thousand rare plant locations. Sean is also a member of the COSEWIC Vascular Plant Species Specialist Committee, the Nova Scotia Atlantic Coastal Plain Flora Recovery Team, and has co-authored several COSEWIC and provincial status reports. Prior to employment with AC CDC, Sean received a B.Sc. in Biology (Botany Minor) from the University of Guelph and an M.Sc. in Plant Ecology from the University of Toronto, and worked on a number of biological inventory projects in Ontario as well as spending eight summers as a naturalist in Algonquin Park, where he co-authored the second edition of the park's plant checklist.

INSTRUCTORS cont'd:

David Mazerolle works as a botanist with the Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre (AC CDC). He completed an undergraduate degree at the Université de Moncton with a major in biology and a minor in geography. He then went on to complete a master's degree in environmental studies, where he studied the geography of exotic vegetation in Kouchibouguac National Park and created a strategy for the management of the park's exotic invasive flora. Prior to working at the AC CDC, David was coordinator for rare plant survey and monitoring projects at the Bouctouche Dune Irving Eco-Centre from 2003 to 2006, where his work focused on the rare coastal plants in New Brunswick. An accomplished field botanist, he has nearly ten years of experience working on various research, survey and monitoring projects and has authored and coauthored several documents pertaining to rare plants in Atlantic Canada.

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 Amherst Wandlyn Hotel has reserved a block of rooms for course participants. Please advise them you are taking a course with the 'Maritime College of Forest Technology' to receive a group rate

Course participants are expected to make their own reservations. The Amherst Wandlynn is located on the Trans Canada Highway, PO Box 275, Amherst, NS B4H 3Z2; Tel: (902) 667-3331 Fax: (902) 667-0475 www.wandlyninns.com

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

**WETLAND PLANT IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOP
FOR NOVA SCOTIA AND NEW BRUNSWICK**
is equivalent to 14 Continuing Forestry Education Credits.

