FROM: MARITIME COLLEGE OF FOREST TECHNOLOGY

SUBJECT: WETLAND PLANT IDENTIFICATION

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 laddered structure.

People with prior 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 jsingleton@mcft.ca

N. Tim Cameron, Director
Department of Continuing Education
WETLAND PLANT IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOP

DATES: Course dates are June 25, 26 & 27, 2013

LOCATION: The course will be held at the Best Western Glengarry, which is located at 150 Willow Street in Truro. The toll free number for reservations is 1 800 567 4276; 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 may opt to challenge the exam, rather than attend the full course, 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 maritime 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.
INSTRUCTORS:

Liz Mills (BSc, BEd) is a freelance Botanical Consultant and Naturalist who has been active on the botany scene for over 20 years. She managed the UNB Biology Department Greenhouse for over 10 years and was responsible for starting and maintaining an indigenous plant collection that was needed for both lab-based and field courses. Part of this work involved identifying and collecting native plants for teaching purposes. Her background includes several years of teaching ‘Plant Propagation’ where a major component of the course was propagation of indigenous plants. Liz has also co-taught ‘Introduction to Vascular Plants of New Brunswick’ and conducted numerous workshops on Edible Wild Plants. As volunteer manager of the Connell Memorial Herbarium at UNB, Liz continues her involvement with the University by coordinating the ongoing data basing and digital imaging of the herbarium’s 60,000 specimens.

Gart Bishop (BSc) has worked as a field botanist since 1994, conducting numerous rare plant surveys, property and park inventories, and wetland delineation. He has co-taught courses on wetland rare plants, willows and the vascular plants of New Brunswick. He is a Research Associate with the New Brunswick Museum, and a frequent volunteer and contributor to the Museum’s herbarium and the herbarium at the University of New Brunswick. An avid naturalist he has been involved with Nature NB since 1995 and is the current president.

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

ACCOMMODATIONS:

The Glengarry has reserved a block of rooms for course participants. Please advise them that 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 Glengarry is located at 150 Willow Street in Truro. The toll free number for reservations is 1 800 567 4276.

TUITION: Tuition for the program including supplies is $650.00 + 13% HST.

WETLAND PLANT IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOP

is equivalent to 21 Continuing Forestry Education Credits.
COURSE OUTLINE

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 or 16X is recommended).

Daily Schedule (subject to change in case of bad weather)

Day 1
8:30am Introduction, hand lenses, basics of plant identification, terminology, using keys, reference books available
9:30 Using Newcomb’s Wildflower guide
10:30 Common Wetland habitats: swamp, bog, ombrotrophic bog, fen, poor fen, brookside, lakeside, pond, vernal pools, salt marsh, marsh
11:00 Collecting Plants, why and how, using the field notebook, use of digital photography, wetland indicator status
12:00 Lunch
1:00 Graminoids
1:30 Field trip and in field plant identification
5:00 supper
7:00 Written and specimen id quiz
7:30 Common wetland trees and shrubs
8:00 Identification of collected specimens, Proper care and preservation of specimens
9-9:30 Plant identification and processing of specimens.

Day 2
8:30am Quick review of species covered on day 1
9:00 Common wetland forbes (wild flowers) [lecture and lab]
11:00 Ferns [lecture and lab]
12:00 Lunch
1:00 Field trip and in field plant identification
5:00 Supper
7:00 Written and specimen id quiz
7:30 Aquatic plants [lecture and lab]
8:30 open lab

Day 3
8:30am Quick review of species covered on day 1 and 2
9:00 Rare plants and their ranking
9:30 Practicing using Newcomb’s and Flora of Nova Scotia
11:00 working on collected specimens
12:00 Lunch
1:00 Field trip and in field plant identification
3:00 Identification of collected specimens
4:00 Review and identification of collected specimens
4:30-5 Practical plant id quiz
REFERENCES


Nova Scotia or Maritime Guides


Gibson, M. 2003. Seashores of the Maritimes. Nimbus. (346 pages, line drawings and descriptions of plants and animals; pages 251-339 cover flowering plants (many of the saltmarsh and dune species) and seaweeds)


Floras


**Lists**

Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre: Species Ranks [http://accdc.com/webranks/NSVASC.htm](http://accdc.com/webranks/NSVASC.htm)


Integrated Taxonomic Information System (IT IS) [http://www.itis.gov/](http://www.itis.gov/)

**Other Helpful Guides**


Grass Manual on the Web [http://herbarium.usu.edu/webmanual/default.htm](http://herbarium.usu.edu/webmanual/default.htm)

**Clubs, Short Courses & Workshops**


Halifax Field Naturalists (monthly talks and field trips)

Nova Scotia Wild Flora Society (monthly talks and field trips) (Keep an eye on the Nova Scotia Wild Flora Society website for announcements of other workshops)

The Seaside Program at Dalhousie University offers a 3-week class on the Flora of Nova Scotia. August 12-30, 2013.

The Harrison Lewis Coastal Discovery Centre in Port Joli offers an assortment of workshops. Currently listed workshops pertaining to plants:

May 11 - 13, 2012: Spring Mushroom Foray/Grow your own

June 8 - 10, 2012: Introduction to Plants and Ethnobotany
WETLAND PLANT IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOP

June 25, 26 & 27, 2013

If you plan to challenge the exam (rather than take the full course) please check the box below:

☐ Challenge Exam = $250.00 + 13% HST.

Name ___________________________ Job Title ___________________________

Employer ___________________________________________________________

Employer’s Address ___________________________________________________

_________________________________ Postal Code ________________ Business

Phone ________________________ Fax ______________________________

E-mail _________________________ Contact Person _______________________

Please circle one:

How do you rate your ability to identify wetland plants? BEGINNER or INTERMEDIATE

Charges must be paid in full, two weeks prior to the course dates. Payment can be made by cheque and Visa or MasterCard. If payment is not received in advance then you will not be permitted to take the course.

Please indicate method of payment:

Visa ☐ Card No. / / / / / / / / / / / / / / / / / Exp. / / / / / /

Mastercard ☐ Card No. / / / / / / / / / / / / / / / / / Exp. / / / / / /

Cheque ☐ Amount enclosed __________________________

Please forward completed application to:

Loretta Phillips
Maritime College of Forest Technology
1350 Regent School
Fredericton NB E3C 2G6

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