

Massachusetts Society of Municipal Conservation Professionals



2025 ANNUAL MEETING

THURSDAY, JUNE 12, 2025

DRUMLIN FARM WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

208 South Great Road, Lincoln

9:00 am – 3:30 pm

Cost: FREE to current MSMCP FY25 members (You must be a current MSMCP member to attend.)

Not sure if you are a member? (1) Check to see if your municipality is listed [here](#); If not a member, (2) join [here](#).

This Annual Meeting will feature the presentation of “The History of Wetlands Protection in MA: the People & Laws” by Gregor McGregor, Esq., morning breakout sessions, a short business meeting of the membership and Bylaw amendment, bring your own lunch, afternoon breakout sessions, and an optional casual networking meet-up at the end of the day at a local venue. Participants will be able to attend two of the six breakout topics.

[Register for this event here](#). Questions about registration? Feel free to reach out to MSMCP Board member Brian Vasa at plymptonconcom@gmail.com.

AGENDA

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| 9:00 - 9:45 am | Arrive and socialize (beverages and snacks provided) |
| 9:45 - 10:45 am | Welcome & Keynote Speaker: “The History of Wetlands Protection in MA: the People & Laws” (Gregor I. McGregor, Esq. - McGregor Legere & Stevens PC) |
| 11:00 - 12:15 pm | Morning Breakout Session: Choose from A, B, C, or D Workshops (descriptions on page 2) |
| 12:30 - 12:45 pm | Business Meeting |
| 12:45 - 1:30 pm | Lunch (bring your own) & Networking |
| 1:45 - 3:00 pm | Afternoon Breakout Session: Choose from A, E, or F (descriptions on page 2) |
| 3:15pm | Final Remarks |
| 3:30 pm | Repair to Craft Food Hall in Waltham for post meeting networking (optional but highly encouraged!) |

BREAKOUT GROUPS

(Pick Two - Full description on the following pages.)

Morning Sessions: A. Basic Wetland Delineation; B. Invasive Plant Management
C. Maintaining Resilience & Avoiding Burnout; D. How to become a Professional Wetland Scientist

Afternoon Sessions: A. Basic Wetland Delineation; E. Open Space & Recreation
Plan Planners Workbook; F. Soil ID

JOIN US
for
Post Meeting Networking
@
Craft Food Hall,
200 5th St., Waltham

Breakout Sessions Offered BOTH Morning & Afternoon:

- A. Basic Wetland Delineation: Understanding the DEP BVW Delineation Field Determination Form with John Rockwell** (*Limited to 15 participants per session.*) **[If it rains, we will switch to plant ID indoors.]**
- John Rockwell has worked with MACC to deliver his "Basic Wetland Delineation Workshop" to hundreds of conservation commissioners and wetland aficionados in Marion, Massachusetts for 35 years. John Rockwell, formerly a Wetland Specialist with the Buzzards Bay National Estuary Program, will introduce strategies to deal with the more difficult delineations when using the updated MassDEP Manual: "Massachusetts Handbook for Delineation of Bordering Vegetated Wetlands, 2nd edition." This session is in the field and will be weather-dependent. Please bring a pencil, clipboard, Munsell Color Book & tile spade (if you already own them), and proper tick/bug and sun protection.

Morning Breakout Session Options:

- B. Invasive Plant Management: Planning - Permitting - Action with Flavio Sutti & Michele Grzenda**
- Flavio Sutti, Mass Audubon's Senior Conservation Ecologist, will discuss the invasive plant management occurring at Drumlin Farms. The workshop will include: a brief review of how Drumlin identified priority projects, the wetland permitting process (the good, bad, and ugly aspect of that), the removal/management process, and monitoring and outcomes. We will visit some of the key management areas to see how the removal effort is going after 2 years of control.
- C. Maintaining Resilience and Avoiding Burnout with Kathy Sferra**
- There are always too many things to do and never enough hands to do them. Added to that, our jobs are complex, sometimes lonely, other times contentious, and involve a myriad of personalities. Learn to recognize the warning signs of stress, determine where you need more balance and support to work well, and get practical strategies for maintaining your personal resilience, setting boundaries, and stepping out of the river of burnout before it pulls you under. Kathy Sferra, Stow's Conservation Director, will facilitate this interactive presentation and discussion.
- D. How to Become a Society of Wetland Scientists (SWS) Certified Professional Wetland Scientist with Nancy Lin, SPWS, Sara Kreisel, PWS, and Mary Grover, PWS**
- Join Nancy Lin, President of The Society of Wetland Scientists Professional Certification Program (SWSPCP), Sara Kreisel (BSC Group) Outreach Chair of SWSPCP, and Mary Grover (MassDEP) Treasurer of SWSPCP, in a workshop to learn more about the only international wetland professional certification program of its kind. To ensure the quality and integrity of the program are not compromised, the application process remains robust yet accessible to a diversity of wetland professionals, requiring education, experience, and ethics of its certificants. This Workshop will cover the SWSPCP Certification and application process in a tutorial and will provide the opportunity to interact with seasoned PWSs. It is a fantastic opportunity to sit down in a small group and tease out possible but not insurmountable challenges.

Afternoon Breakout Session Options:

- E. Open Space & Recreation Plan Planners Workbook workshop with Melissa Cryan**
- Open Space and Recreation Plans (OSRPs) are a tool through which a community plans for the future of its conservation and recreation resources. The plans are reviewed and approved by the Commonwealth to ensure that they conform to the requirements. When a community has an approved OSRP, it becomes eligible for specific DCS grant programs for up to ten years. The Open Space and Recreation Planner's Workbook has recently been updated. Join Melissa Cryan of EEA's Division of Conservation Services to go over the basics of writing an OSRP, understand the approval process, and better understand the recent changes to the Workbook.

F. Soil Identification with Ethan Sneesby

Join Ethan Sneesby, a professional member of SSSSNE, and Marabelle Tucci, a former soil judging competitor for Delaware Valley University, for a hands-on session focused on the fundamentals of soil science as they relate to wetlands. The workshop will center around a soil catena—from upland, through the transition zone, into the wetland—using soil profiles taken along a slope leading into a wetland area.

Participants will observe changes in soil characteristics across the landscape, and we'll discuss how soil formation and hydrology influence horizon development and wetland boundaries. Participants will be guided through basic field techniques, including soil texturing, Munsell color identification, and horizon delineation. The goal is to give participants a practical understanding of how to interpret soil profiles in the context of wetland delineation.

MSMCP Annual Business Meeting Agenda (12:30 - 12:45 pm)

1. MSMCP Nominations for Officers and Board of Directors (Draft Board Slate will be sent out prior to the Annual Meeting) (Vote anticipated)
2. Vote to Amend MSMCP Bylaws -

Existing Bylaw Wording

Article IV – Membership

Section 1. Classes of Membership: The Corporation shall have one class of members.

Section 2. Eligibility: Any person who is or has been staff of a conservation commission or acting as staff of a conservation commission is eligible to be a member upon payment of dues...

Proposed Bylaw Wording

Article IV – Membership

Section 1. Classes of Membership: The Corporation shall have one class of voting members ***as described in Section 2 below. The Board of Directors may designate certain persons or organizations as Associate Members, Sponsors, Benefactors, Contributors, Advisers, Friends, Conservation Partners, or such other title as they deem appropriate. Such persons or organizations shall serve in an ex officio capacity and, shall, in such capacity, have no right to vote at any meeting and shall have no other rights and responsibilities. Said persons and representatives of said organizations shall be permitted to attend meetings and participate in discussions as permitted by the President/Chair but shall have no right to vote on any formal action taken by the Corporation.***

(new wording in bold italics)