



MASE Newsletter

MAINE ASSOCIATION OF SITE EVALUATORS

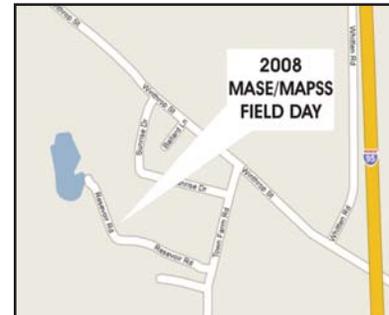
September, 2008

2008 MASE/MAPSS FIELD DAY

WHEN: Thursday, September 25, 2008 (8am – mid-afternoon)
WHERE: Hallowell Recreation Area
COST: Free for MASE/ MAPSS members (\$10 others)

SCHEDULE:

8 to 12 Test Pit Review (at leisure)
10–12 NRCS Discussion of MAPSS Test Pits
12 to 1 Lunch (Hot Dog/ Hamburger, Soda, & Chips)
1 to END Powerpoint Presentation of Test Pits



Field Day Location

Be sure to email info@mainese.com or call Gary Fullerton at 856-0277 if you want lunch!!!



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Message From MASE President Dave Marceau

Greetings from Central Maine. MASE has been active on many fronts since our last annual meeting. We have had our usual board meetings and summer golf tournament as well as making plans for the annual field exam. In addition to these items we have decided to hire Judy Harvie to monitor MASE issues in the legislature for us. The cost for this service is \$700 per year. She will prepare weekly and quarterly summaries which will probably be distributed via the website.

At the executive board meeting on June 19, 2008 we decided to hire Clough Toppan to expedite the subsurface rule making process. There has been some delay in this process in the past and the board felt that hiring Clough was necessary to keep the process moving. Specifically, Clough has agreed to:

- ✓ Complete the comment summary to the existing pre-rule comment discussion
- ✓ Meet with Russ Martin and Nancy Beardsley to discuss the need to move forward and insure that spurious rulemaking is minimized, if not, excluded altogether
- ✓ Discuss all the comments with Russ Martin and Nancy Beardsley and explain the merits of each
- ✓ Add the comments that DHS is soliciting from outside individuals into the current summary
- ✓ Oversee the e-mailing of the complete summary to the stakeholder groups
- ✓ Prepare, in underline and strike out format, the rulemaking proposals
- ✓ Meet with the various stakeholders to discuss the rules and any concerns

The MASE executive board approved a not to exceed amount of \$2700.00 to complete this process. Clough estimates it will take approximately 60 hours to complete the work that is necessary. In talking with Russ Martin it is my understanding that a summary of the underline and strike out version of the proposed rule changes has arrived at DHS. The rule making process is scheduled to be complete by January of 2009 with the new rules taking effect April 1, 2009.

We are in the process of updating our website and sprucing up our newsletter. Richard Green (our current secretary) has volunteered to take on this task but he cannot do the job single handedly. He needs our help by writing articles, submitting pictures and other information that may be of interest to other site evaluators.

Finally, I would like to encourage more site evaluators to get involved in MASE. I have been a member of MASE for 25 years and see many of the same faces active in the organization. I am here to take the heat if there are complaints or concerns but things won't get better if people don't get involved. Please consider helping out by being on a committee, running for office or submitting an article for the newsletter. Have a good field season and be careful out there.

MASE CALENDAR

September 24, 2008	Site Evaluator Field Exam
September 25, 2008	MASE/MAPSS Field Day, Hallowell - Text Pit Evaluations and Lunch!
October 8, 2008	Regular MASE Board Meeting, Augusta 3:00 p.m.
January 9, 2009	Regular MASE Board Meeting, Augusta 3:00 p.m.
February 24, 2009	MASE Annual Meeting, Palmyra(tentative location)

Check the MASE Website for Updates! www.maine.com

Each year the list of proprietary devices approved for use in septic systems grows longer. While it would seem that more options would be a great thing for septic system designers, each of these products has its own individual installation instructions and procedures. Even products which are considered to be equivalent can have drastically different manufacturer's recommendations. Dave Marceau presents his thoughts and concerns regarding the growing plethora of proprietary devices. Dave is the president of MASE and has been designing septic systems for many years in central Maine.

“Follow Manufacturers Recommendations”

By David L. Marceau

Did you ever wonder what this phrase really means? Of course I understand that the manufacturers of the products that we utilize for our designs have specifications for what they want, but what does that really mean? Must every recommendation be in writing? Is the products design manual the manufacturers recommendations? As you might imagine a good portion of any site evaluator's concerns come down to liability.

This issue has become more important in my world because I recently have assisted an engineer in designing an engineered septic system. In this process, basically the engineer is required to determine whether the components were correctly installed and will function as designed. This is where the manufactures recommendations come in to play because the subsurface rules state that designs must follow “manufacturer's recommendations” (Appendix B section B-100.2.7 Condition 7). So, if the manufacturer recommends serial distribution and you have say 15 rows do you feed every other row? Every third row? How many rows are too many? Does it matter that we are feeding them all from one end or must we feed from many different areas if the rows are long (80 to 100 feet)? Bear in mind that mounding analysis and transmission analysis are satisfactory no matter what we do.

Taking this issue to other designs, what happens if you design a system with Geo-Flow and the contractor decides to install Enviro-Septic? Where does that leave the site evaluator regarding manufacturer's recommendations? This may not seem like a big deal but I can tell you that the specifications for each of the units do vary significantly. For example if you are pumping to an Enviro-Septic system the manufacturer requires that two vents be installed, one at the d-box and one at the lower end of the system with a minimum of a 10 foot difference between the height of the upper and lower vents. How do you think most home owners or contractors will accept some type of vent structure protruding 8 feet out of the ground? These requirements do not exist if you choose to use Geo-Flow.

Another example is with pumping and Eljen In-drain systems. The manufacturer's requires an oversized distribution box and no equalizers on the outlets. They further explain that the doses for pump systems should be 30-60 gallons per dose and design for 5-6 doses per day. If we as site evaluators are not specifying these on our designs are we not following manufacturer's recommendations? I don't see many other designs by other site evaluators, but I can tell you that I have seen enough to know that most, if not all, designs do not include this kind of detail.

In these days of extremely valuable lots and lawyers to back them up I, for one, am uneasy about some of the issues facing site evaluators these days. What do you think?

18th Annual MASE Golf Tournament Results

by Dave Kamila

MASE held it's 18th annual golf tournament on June 20th at The Meadows Golf Course in Litchfield. 22 members and guests competed for prizes and enjoyed a great day of golf with the course in top condition and the weather was terrific.

Lunch was provided courtesy of Infiltrator and their regional sales representative Alan Barbaro.

The winning team at 2 under par included Mark Hampton, Kathi-Rae Emmi, Dick Sweet and Dave Kamila. Second place honors at 1 over par went to Alan Barbaro, Gary Fullerton, Earle Rafuse and Vaughn Smith.

Longest Drive was won by Alex Finamore for the men and Kathi-Rae Emmi for the women.

Closest to the pin winners were: Hole No. 3 - Alan Barbaro at 15 ft. 1 in. and Rod Stewart at 21 ft. 11 in.; Hole No. 7 - Bob Bills at 27 ft. 0 in. and Alan Barbaro at 27 ft 6 in; Hole No. 15 – Kathi-Rae Emmi at 5 ft. 2 in. and Mike Banaitis at 22 ft. 3 in.; Hole No. 17 – Mike Banaitis at 21 ft. 10 in and Bonnie Cobb at 27 ft. 3 in.

It was another successful event and we look forward to next year's tournament which will be held on June 19th.



2008 Annual Meeting

February 27, 2008 Millenium Convention Center, Palmyra

This year's annual meeting got off to a snowy start with a winter storm coming through the night before the meeting. Despite the dire forecasts, the event was held as scheduled at its new location at the Millenium Convention Center just off the Newport 1-95 exit. The driving was not bad at all until the sand truck slid off the road, but there were no reported accidents among the many site evaluators and vendors that made the journey. Once they got there, though, finding a place to park was the real challenge. With approximately 40% of the parking lots buried under piles of snow, people were forced to park on the street that were also barely cleared.

Other than the unfortunate parking issue, the facility itself got generally good reviews. Having the vendor area completely separated from the technical presentations allowed both to go on without disturbing the other. The presentation area was a little cramped for the 160 attendees, but the seating was comfortable and the food was excellent. MASE will consider utilizing this facility again if the parking issue can be resolved.

The speakers included George Heufelder, Director of Massachusetts Alternative Septic System Test Center, Jason Bishop of Varney Insurance Agency who discussed liability insurance, Ken Stratton with a tribute to the late Gene Dube, and Russ Martin, Director of the Subsurface Wastewater Disposal Program, who discussed program issues. A new Board of Directors was elected and given a clear directive to get involved in upcoming discussions regarding a merger with the DEP. Many door prizes were awarded, and everyone left with full bellies, minds, and arms.



LPI Corner

by Earle Rafuse

As both a Licensed Site Evaluator and Local Plumbing Inspector, Earle Rafuse gets more chances than most to see how closely the septic system that gets built resembles what was shown on the plans. He is also able to keenly appreciate the issues and challenges that both of these professionals face. In this issue he presents an extreme example of a situation many LPI's have to deal with on occasion.

Q: I have a lot in a subdivision that was previously turned down with a seasonal water table at 7". An HHE-200 has been turned in indicating 18" to seasonal water table in close to the same area. The lot has gone from an "E" soils to a "C" soils simply by changing Site Evaluators. I am familiar with the lot and am having a hard time accepting the "C" soils. What do I do???

A: Call the Site Evaluator and explain the situation to him and ask him if he would like to re-evaluate the site; offer to accompany him/her. If the Site Evaluator feels comfortable with the "C" findings and options not to re-evaluate you should ask the State Site Evaluator, Douglas C. Coombs [287-5688] or State Plumbing Inspector, Brent Lawson [287-5670] to come and look at the site. If their work load prohibits a timely review of the lot, M.A.S.E. may have a Site Evaluator who works in the area and is willing to review the lot with you.

Send articles, photos, news, and other publication items to:

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MASE website: www.maine.com



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