

Advanced Training Workshop for RI Soil Evaluators Review/Update Soil Science and Geology

Coventry, RI

Saturday, September 6, 2014 (**registration deadline is September 5th**)

8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

The cost of \$300 includes handouts, a field workbook, snacks and drinks.....
.....(BRING YOUR OWN LUNCH!!!!).

Presented by:

Peter C. Fletcher, Certified Professional Soil Scientist (02703)

Mass Soil Evaluator (SE3027) and Mass Title 5 System Inspector (SI2975)

To register:

Contact Kerri Rice at Scituate Surveys (401) 821-8101, or email
klr@scituatesurveys.com.

Workshop Description

This is an **8 hour lecture** plus field exercise workshop. The workshop is designed for professionals who are seasoned Soil Evaluators with field experience.

Participants completing this workshop will receive **4 Soil Evaluator Training Credit Hours; RIDEM OWTS licensees will receive 4 Continuing Education Units (CEUs); the RIDEM CEUs apply to the CI-IV license and other RIDEM designer license that may also be held by the individual.**

The focus of the workshop is a review and update of soil science and geology as it relates to describing, documenting, and interpreting soil conditions within deep observation holes. This workshop is presented as a series of lectures, PowerPoint presentations and field exercises. There will be hands-on-exercises using reference materials and soil samples.

Lecture and Hands-on Exercises: To be held at Scituate Surveys, Inc. located at 410 Tiogue Avenue, Coventry, RI 02816

Review and Update of Geology and Soil Science:

- Researching reference materials on the Internet
- Glacial geology of Southern New England
- Common landscapes and landforms found within Southern New England
- Effects of soil formation within Southern New England
- Logging a deep hole • Identifying and interpreting soil horizons and layers
- Field methodology for determining soil texture
- Documenting soil colors
- Understanding the different groundwater systems common to New England
- Estimating the depth to seasonal high water table using soil features (redoximorphic features)
- Field methodology for determining soil consistence and soil structure

Afternoon Field Exercise (travel to different sites in RI): An important and essential skill for all Soil Evaluators is being able to interpret a landscape by first reviewing available reference materials and then walking the landscape. Identifying the different landforms and understanding the geologic processes (glaciers, rivers, marine, wind, etc.) that formed the underlying sediments is key to a comprehensive evaluation of a site. With this knowledge one can visualize the landscape from a three dimensional perspective, alerting the evaluator to underlying restrictive layers, presence of silt and clay, potential for a high water table, altered/disturbed soil conditions, etc. This should be done before excavating any deep holes and will guide a Soil Evaluator to the best areas for locating a system at a site.

This workshop will be conducted using hand shovels and soil augers. Soil shovels and augers will be provided by the instructor. Because this workshop focuses on “keeping your head out of the deep hole” and interpreting the landscape, there will be no excavated deep observation holes.

The field exercises for this workshop are strenuous and require participants to traverse rough terrain, walk long distances, and dig test holes using shovels and augers. Each participant needs to evaluate their own health and physical conditioning before registering for this workshop.

Hands-on exercises include: identifying different geologic sediments (parent material) using field samples, determining the soil texture using field techniques, interpreting contours on USGS topographic maps to identify different landforms, etc.

Course Materials

Each participant will receive handouts and a field guide.

Refreshments

Snacks and drinks will be provided. Bring your lunch.

Attendance

All participants are required to be present during the entire workshop. Attendance will be taken at the start and close of the workshop.

Limited Enrollment

To allow for small group instruction/discussion, enrollment for this workshop is limited to 20 participants.

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